

Applicants : Sydir et al.
Serial No. : 10/741,676
Filed : December 19, 2003
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Attorney's Docket No.: INTEL-019PUS
Intel Docket No. P18172

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached replacement sheets of drawings includes changes to FIGS. 1, 2, 2A and 2B and replaces the original sheet including FIGS. 1, 2, 2A and 2B.

In Figure 1, reference 28 is labeled "authentication buffer group."

In Figure 2, "authentication buffer 70" was added to match the specification and the figures.

In Figure 2A, reference 70 is labeled "authentication buffer."

In Figure 2B, reference 70 is labeled "authentication buffer."

Attachments following last page of this Amendment:

Replacement Sheets (2 pages)

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 16 and 18 are pending in this application of which claims 1, 5, 9, and 14 are the independent claims. Favorable reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Applicants held a teleconference with the Examiner and the Examiner's Supervisor on Thursday, March 8, 2007 to clarify the 35 U.S.C. § 101 rejection of claims 14 to 18. The Examiner's Supervisor indicated in the teleconference that if the claims were amended to include "a computer storage readable medium" that included a processor or a machine that claim 14 would overcome the §101 rejection. Based on the foregoing amendments to the claims, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the § 101 rejection of claims 14 to 16 and 18.

The Examiner objected to the drawings. Based on the foregoing amendments to the drawings, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the drawing objections.

The Examiner objected to the specification. Based on the foregoing amendments to the specification, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the specification objections.

Claims 1 to 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ohta et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication Number 2002/0083317 hereinafter "Ohta").

Original independent claim 9 is directed to a method of authenticating network packet data. The method includes moving to an authentication buffer authentication data. The authentication data includes at least one of ciphered-network-packet data subject to authentication, network packet data subject only to authentication, and network packet data subject to ciphering and authentication. The authentication buffer includes a circular first-in-first-out (FIFO) arrangement. The method also includes moving to an authentication core a block of data from the authentication buffer.

The applied art is not understood to disclose or to suggest the foregoing features of claim 9. In particular, Ohta does not disclose or suggest that the authentication buffer includes a circular first-in-first-out (FIFO) arrangement.

Ohta discloses a data block accumulation unit 103 (see FIG. 2). Ohta does not disclose that the data block accumulation unit includes a FIFO arrangement much less a circular FIFO arrangement. The Examiner has indicated that buffers in Ohta would be capable of processing the data blocks in a FIFO arrangement, but the Examiner provides no support for this assertion (see page 4 of the Office Action). During the aforementioned teleconference, the Examiner and the Examiner's supervisor indicated that they mean inherency. Applicants respectfully submit that a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 requires that each and every element be disclosed in the cited prior art. If the Examiner is attempting to assert that a FIFO buffer is inherent, then Applicants respectfully point out that in order for this characteristic to be inherent, it must be "necessarily present" (see MPEP §2112 (IV) and In re Robertson, 169 F.3d 743, 745).

Applicants submit that the data block accumulation unit in Ohta is not required to include a circular FIFO arrangement. Therefore, Ohta does not disclose or suggest that the authentication buffer includes a circular first-in-first-out (FIFO) arrangement.

Independent claims 1, 5 and 14 having corresponding features to claim 9. Applicants submit the Ohta reference should also be withdrawn with respect to claims 1, 5 and 14 for at least the same reasons as claim 9.

Claim 1 is further distinguished from Ohta. Claim 1 recites that an authentication buffer is configured to store authentication data including ciphered-network-packet data subject to authentication, network packet data subject only to authentication, and network packet data subject to ciphering and authentication (emphasis added). Ohta only uses the data block accumulation unit 103 if the data is encrypted (See FIGS. 2 and 3 of Ohta).

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants request withdrawal of the art rejections.

Applicants submit that all dependent claims now depend on allowable independent claims.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for withdrawing the prior art cited with regards to any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as

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specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

Applicants submit that the entire application is now in condition for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

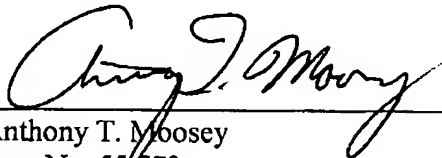
All correspondence should be directed to the address below. Applicants' attorney can be reached by telephone at (781) 401-9988 ext. 23.

No fee is believed to be due for this Response; however, if any fees are due, please apply such fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0845 referencing Attorney Docket: INTEL-019PUS.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: _____

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